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(54) MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY SPECIFIC TO MMP-2  
 ACTIVATION FACTOR

(57) Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To obtain a new antibody having specificity to a protein which is a kind of matrix metalloprotease (MMP) having the activity of a latent MMP-2, exhibiting an activity equivalent to the activity of natural membrane-type MMP and useful for the diagnosis of the presence of cancer cell and the grade of malignancy, etc.

**SOLUTION:** This new monoclonal antibody has specificity to a protein (salt) or its partial peptide (salt) having an activity equivalent to the activity of a natural matrix metalloprotease (MMP) which is a kind of MMP

having the activating property on latent MMP-2 and a latent MMP-2 activation factor other than a membrane-type MMP-1 (MT-MMP-1). It is useful for the diagnosis and treatment for cancer such as the presence of cancer cell and the diagnosis of the degree of malignancy of the cancer and other medical and physiological uses. The antibody can be produced by immunizing a mouse with a recombinant MT-MMP-3, fusing the spleen cell of the mouse to a myeloma cell, culturing on a HAT medium, selecting an antibody-producing strain, cloning the strain by limiting dilution analysis and culturing the obtained hybridoma.

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